



FEMA

Innovative Program Focuses on Leadership During Disasters

New Orleans, LA – When educators at Tulane University returned to campus after Hurricane Katrina evacuations, they faced the storm's devastation. Tulane sustained millions of dollars in damages and halted academics for months after the storm.

But in the Tulane community's recovery, administrators saw academic opportunity. They realized their campus had become an ideal setting for disaster management students as a living laboratory of resilience and rebuilding.

With a focus on leadership at the local level, Tulane administrators developed the new Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy (DRLA), a new academic program to educate graduate students on planning for, responding to, and reducing the risks of future disasters. Students may work in a certificate program or achieve a Masters in Science.

"DRLA's programs are designed to protect communities by educating leaders who are experts in disaster planning, response, and risk reduction", said Ky Luu DRLA's executive director. "Developing strong leaders is an essential task because of the frequency and seriousness of disaster events occurring around the globe."

An additional bonus of the program is its visitors who bring global issues and perspectives directly to Tulane. "Every other week we host a delegation from outside. They come, and we tell them about our experiences in New Orleans, and they tell us what they are doing in their country," said Luu.

DRLA's efforts are having a global impact thanks to funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. First, a grant awarded in 2010 funded a Haiti to assess humanitarian aid following the 2010 earthquake. In 2012, the Gates Foundation awarded a grant to help universities, in disaster-prone regions of Africa and Asia, establish programs in disaster resilience and leadership.

DRLA's partners include the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, Yale University, World Bank Disaster Risk Reduction Facility, State of Louisiana Lieutenant Governor's Office, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of International Health Affairs, State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action.



Orleans Parish,
Louisiana



Quick Facts

Year:
2005

Sector:
Public

Cost:
Amount Not Available

Primary Activity/Project:
Training

Primary Funding:
Private funds